

Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 061700Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4992

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2718

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN CB

SUBJECT: KHMER - UNGA STRATEGY

REF: PHNOM PENH 10303

1. IT DIFFICULT AT THIS TIME ANTICIPATE ALL THE PRO-
CEDURAL POSSIBILITIES OR EVEN STATE WITH CONFIDENCE
MOST LIKELY MECHANICS AND TIMING OF KHMER ISSUE.

2. ITEM "RESTORATION OF THE LAWFUL RIGHTS OF THE ROYAL
GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION" INSCRIBED ON PROVISIONAL
AGENDA 29TH GA. GENERAL COMITE WILL DECIDE ON INSCRIPTION
OF ITEMS ON SEPT. 18 AND PLENARY WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD
ACT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS OF GENERAL COMITE
ON SEPT. 19 OR 20.

3. ASSUMING ITEM INSCRIBED ON FINAL AGENDA AND REFERRED
DIRECTLY TO PLENARY, ITEM COULD COME UP ANY TIME AFTER
CONCLUSION OF GENERAL DEBATE - I.E. AFTER OCT. 9. WITH
BOUTEFLIKA IN CHAIR WE UNLIKELY HAVE STRONG INPUT ON
TIMING.

4. QUESTION OF CAMBODIA WILL PRESUMABLY ALSO ARISE THIS
YEAR AS LAST IN CONTEXT OF CREDENTIALS. THIS ISSUE
COULD BE RAISED OPENING DAY OR ANY TIME THEREAFTER. LONG-
STANDING PRACTICE OF GA HAS BEEN TO LEAVE CREDENTIALS ISSUES
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TO THE END OF THE SESSION. IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER, AFRICANS

HAVE SOMETIMES PRESSED FOR EARLY CREDENTIALS ACTION RE SOUTH AFRICA AND THIS COULD TRIGGER EARLY RAISING OF OTHER CREDENTIALS ISSUES. WHILE IT SLIGHTLY MORE LIKELY THAN NOT THAT KHMER CREDENTIALS WILL COME UP IN DECEMBER RATHER THAN SEPTEMBER THERE IS NO CERTAINTY. WE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE CONVINCE SECRETARIAT TO RECOMMEND FAVORABLE COMPOSITION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AT LEAST SO FAR AS KHMER IS CONCERNED AND THAT GA WOULD ACQUIESCE IN A FAVORABLY LOADED COMITE BUT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE IT. (FYI WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH SECRETARIAT RE CREDENTIALS COMITE COMPOSITION AND KEEP AMB. CHHUT BRIEFED. END FYI) IF CREDENTIALS COMITE COMPOSITION IS UNFAVORABLE, THIS MIGHT WELL ENCOURAGE OTHER SIDE TO PRESS CREDENTIALS ISSUE AT VERY EARLY STAGE.

5. IT DIFFICULT TO COMMENT IN ABSTRACT HOW A POSITIVE MOVE SUCH AS THE FACT-FINDING IDEA COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY BE MELDED INTO THIS SITUATION. WE WOULD INCLINE FOLLOW ASEAN LEAD ON ANY SUCH QUESTION.

6. (A) ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO PROPOSE A NEW ITEM FOR THE AGENDA OF THE 29TH GA. THIS CAN BE DONE AT ANY TIME. ITEMS PROPOSED LESS THAN THIRTY DAYS BEFORE OPENING OF SESSION ARE SUPPOSED TO BE OF AN "IMPORTANT AND URGENT CHARACTER". THE NEW ITEM COULD BE URGED IN PLACE OF THE EXISTING ITEM (NOT AN APPROACH WE WOULD REGARD AS PROMISING), AS A SEPARATE ITEM OR WE COULD SEEK TO MERGE THE NEW ITEM WITH THE OLD UNDER A NEUTRAL HEADING. (B) ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE NOT TO BOTHER WITH A NEW ITEM BUT MERELY PROPOSE A FACT-FINDING MISSION UNDER THE HOSTILE ITEM. THIS PROPOSAL COULD BE MADE EITHER BEFORE THE GA BEGINS ITS SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM OR DURING THE CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM.

7. WE SHARE EMBASSY PHNOM PENH'S VIEW THAT A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH THEN MERELY TRYING TO AMASS ENOUGH VOTES TO AVOID DEFEAT HAS MERIT. FACT THAT FACT-FINDING IDEA ORIGINATES FROM ASEANS IS SIGNIFICANT AND WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO APPROACH IT SYMPATHETICALLY FOR THIS IF NO OTHER REASON. MOREOVER WE HAVE NOT COME UP WITH ANY OTHER IDEAS AS TO WHAT POSITIVE KHMER MOVE MIGHT BE. OF
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COURSE WE HAVE NO WAY KNOWING WHETHER SUGGESTION WAS INFORMAL LUNCHEON CHAT WHICH WILL BE FIRMED UP AT WEDNESDAY LUNCHEON OR WHETHER IT REFLECTING WHAT ASEAN GOVERNMENTS ALREADY WILLING UNDERTAKE AND TAKE LEAD ON.

8. IF DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BELIEVE PURSUIT OF FACT-FINDING MISSION CONCEPT HAS MERIT, WE URGE THAT

INSTRUCTIONS FROM KHMER FONMIN TO AMB. CHHUT REACH HIM
BEFORE WEDNESDAY SO THAT HE CAN MAKE POSITIVE RESPONSE AT
AUSTRALIAN PERMREP'S LUNCH.
BENNETT

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